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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,916	09/29/2003	Paul David Zarn	9047.29US01	8987
23552	7590	01/19/2005	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			SCHULTERBRANDT, KOFI A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	
DATE MAILED: 01/19/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,916

Applicant(s)

ZARN, PAUL DAVID

Examiner

Kofi A. Schullerbrandt

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 092903.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This first Office Action is in response to Applicant's originally filed Application received in the Office on September 29, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on September 29, 2003 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 11 and 21 appear not to include any limitation not already included by the other. In other words claims 11 and 21 are identical duplicate claims. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

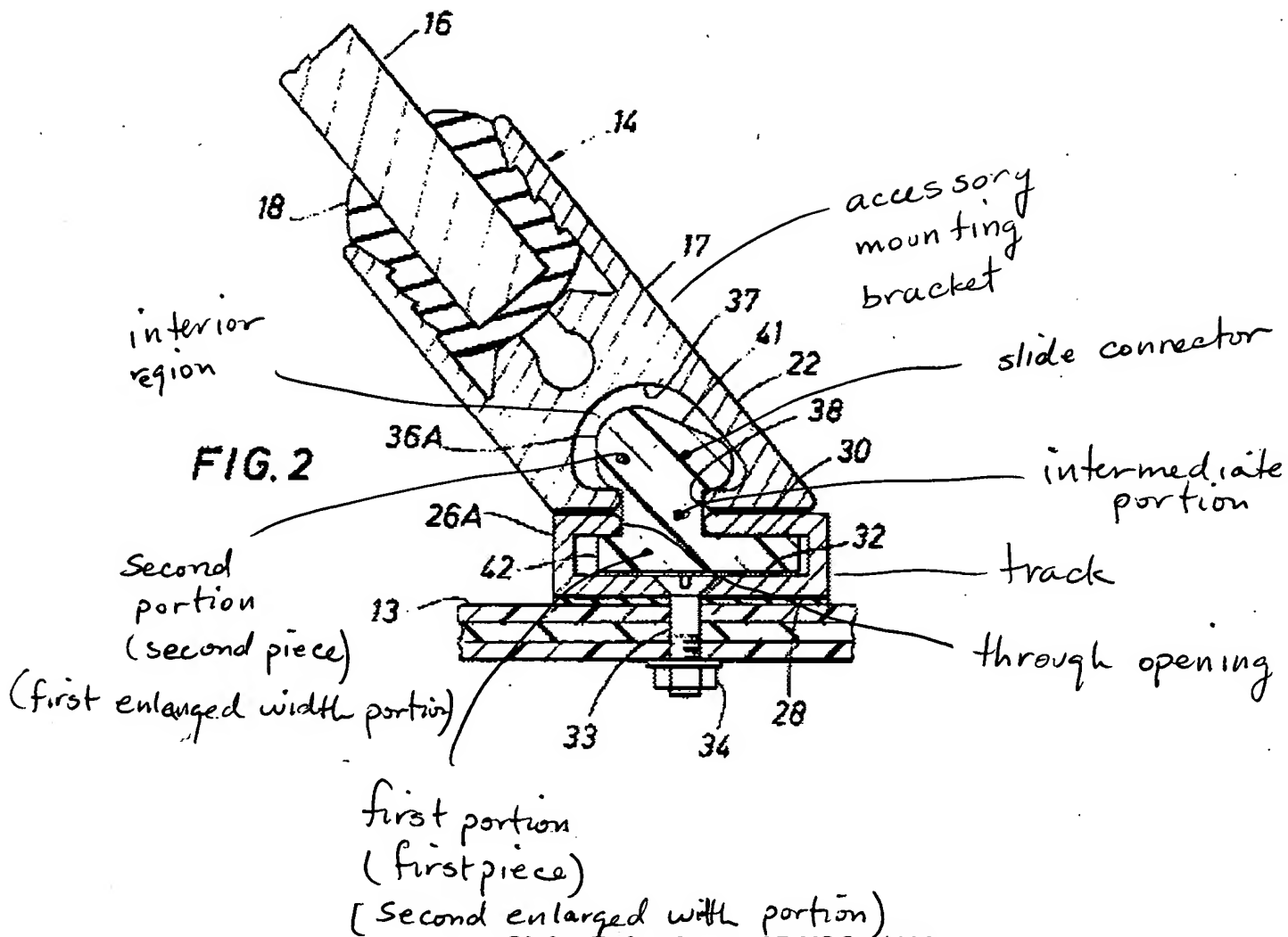
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 6-14, 18-26 and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilhoit (3,654,648). Wilhoit teaches each feature of the claimed invention as shown below. Regarding claim 8, Wilhoit's accessory mounting bracket is capable of being slid over the slide connector in the claimed direction. Regarding claim 11, the examiner interprets the boat to be positively recited. Regarding claims 18 and 19, Wilhoit's (41) and (42) are pieces have separate shapes and are separated by (42) and are positioned together by (43). Furthermore, (41) and (42) are generally half pieces with respect to their cross sectional area. In other words, each is a piece and each is generally half the cross-sectional area of the connector. Regarding claims 14, 23 and 26, Wilhoit teaches a movable door (14, Figures 5 and 6) that is slid over (36A) as seen in Figure 6.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilhoit (3,654,648). Wilhoit teaches, substantially, teach feature of the claimed

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invention discussed above including a plastic slide connector. Wilhoit does not teach a plastic mounting bracket. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have modified Wilhoit's mounting bracket to be made of durable plastic to protect against the corrosive nature of salt water against metal.

Claims 4, 5, 15-17, 27-29, 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilhoit (3,654,648) in view of Tezuka (5,577,856). Wilhoit teaches, substantially, teach feature of the claimed invention as discussed above. Wilhoit does not teach a cam with a ramp within the receptacle. Tezuka however, disclosing an invention for sliding two pieces together, teaches a ramped cam surface for locking the pieces together (See col. 3, ln. 52 to col. 4, ln. 15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have modified Wilhoit's surfaces to have a ramp as taught by Tezuka in order to press the surfaces together. Furthermore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have positioned Tzuka's cam surface anywhere between the mounting bracket and the connector (including within the receptacle) so that their sliding relative to each other can be pressed together or for the surface to be on the mounting bracket or the connector as parts may be obviously reversed.

Prior Pertinent Art


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 082 to Evans et al.; and '267 to Fussell. Jr. et al. each teach brackets mounted to boats.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kofi A. Schulterbrandt whose telephone number is (703) 306-0096. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie A. Braun can be reached on (703) 308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kofi Schulterbrandt
January 12, 2005